

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW ICHNEUMONID.

BY T. A. MARSHALL, F.E.S.

A rather large black Ichneumonid with long ovipositor, taken in the Forest of Monte d'Oro, Corsica, by Col. Yerbury in 1893, has been for some years in Mr. Bignell's collection. It is worthy of special notice as a new form, remarkable for the incrassation of the front tibiæ, a character not entirely unknown in the group of *Xorides*, or even in that of *Cryptus*, but nowhere developed to the same extent as in the present instance, so far as I am aware. It belongs to Förster's genus *Nyxophilus*, placed by that author among his *Cryptoideæ*, but wanting several of the characters necessary to maintain it in that situation. It is now better arranged by Ashmead in his tribe *Xoridini*, and in close proximity to *Echthrus*, with which it has a nearer connection than with the *Cryptus*-group. As the genus has received no further illustration than the syuoptical indications of Förster and Ashmead, and is probably quite unknown, it may be useful to add such characters as may conduce to its more easy identification in future. The specimen is now before me, kindly lent by Mr. Bignell, to whom I had expressed my desire to bring it forward at the forthcoming scientific conference at Ajaccio, Sept. 8—14.

Genus NYXEOPHILUS.

Förster, Synops. der Fam. u. Gatt. d. Ichn., p. 187.

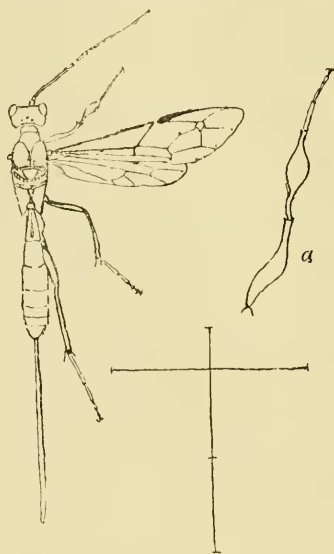
Ashmead, Classif. of the Ichn.-Flies, p. 60.

♀. Head transversely subquadrate above, somewhat buccate posteriorly, as broad as the thorax. Clypeus very small, remote from the mandibles, and not closing the mouth. Antennæ slender, filiform, rather longer than head and thorax. Parapsidal furrows deep, ending in a fovea before reaching the scutellum. *Metathorax with a small triangular areola superomedia, narrowly connected with a larger subcircular posteromedia. An abbreviated carina on either side, just above the spiracle, reaches neither the base nor the apex. Spiracles subcircular. Only one transverse carina, circular, and near the apex, separates the disc of the metathorax from the posterior declivity, which is very small. Areolet large, pentagonal (as in *Echthrus* and many *Cryptids*); præbrachial cell a little longer than the pobrachial; dividing nervure between 1st cubital cell and 1st discoidal commenced in form of a stump; pobrachial transverse nervure of hind-wing broken above the middle. Fore-legs short, their femora bent, compressed, and incrassated, attenuated towards the apex; tibiæ about half as long as the tarsi, attenuated near the base, with a conspicuous pyriform intumescence occupying more than the apical half; 1st joint of

* Micro-Anatomy teaches that the so-called metathorax is in reality the first segment of the abdomen, and that its name should be changed accordingly. The change, however, would prove so highly inconvenient, throwing out of gear so many thousands of existing descriptions, that any one may well hesitate to adopt it. It will be better to retain the old word, to be read with a silent consciousness that it does not mean what it says.—T. A. M.

tarsi elongate, linear, straight; 2nd—4th short; 5th still shorter; claws minute, incrassated at the base, without pectination, somewhat bristly at the base. Four posterior legs normal. Spurs 2, 2, 2, those of the fore tibiæ very short. Abdomen subsessile, longer than the thorax; segment I with a broad shallow channel throughout its length; spiracles placed, as in *Cryptus*, behind the middle. Terebra somewhat shorter than the body, its valves broad, flattened. Male unknown. For the sake of brevity I omit some generalities as to form and *facies*, which will easily be estimated from the figure.

The above description was written before I had examined Mr. Ashmead's work. Upon comparing it subsequently with his description of *Nyxophilus*, some slight discrepancies appear, but not I think sufficient to necessitate the formation of another new genus. The *Nyxophilus* of Ashmead, founded, I presume, upon American types, has a second transverse carina on the metathorax, and the spiracles oval; while the spiracles of the 1st abdominal segment are placed "at or a little before" the middle. Förster is silent about these characters. The old genera before Förster were, as is well known, vastly too comprehensive and indefinite; those of modern date often present the contrary defect of being too exclusive. It frequently happens that a new species, respecting the natural affinities of which there could be no doubt, cannot, for want of certain technical characters, enter any of the artificial genera which crowd the subject. The readiest way out of this difficulty is to make another new genus, of course with only one species; and so the evil goes on increasing *ad infinitum*.



NYXOPHILUS CORSICUS, *n. sp.*

Entirely black, except the fore legs, which are yellowish-brown, darker towards the base and apex. Antennæ with a white ring. Wings glaucous; nervures dark brown; stigma narrowly lanceolate, elongate, blackish, with a minute whitish dot at the base. Body hardly shining. Metathorax and hind coxæ coriaceous, dull.

Length, 7.5 lines; terebra, 6; exp. of wings, 13 lines.

I have no information of the history of this insect, nor of the circumstances of its capture in this island. It has not been met with a second time. The scarcity of *Ichneumonidæ* and *Braconidæ* in

Corsica has often forced itself on my attention, and remains unaccountable, considering the great abundance of other insects. The rôle of these parasites seems to be transferred in a great measure to the *Diptera* (*Tachinidæ*), which show themselves everywhere in unusual numbers.

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FURTHER NOTES ON THE GENUS *HETEROMYZA*, FLN.

BY J. E. COLLIN, F.E.S.

Herr P. L. Czerny of Badhall, Ober-Österreich, informs me in a recent letter that he has seen the type of Zetterstedt's *Anthomyza rotundicornis*, which, though a true *Heteromyza*, is not the same as my species of that name (*Ent. Mo. Mag.*, 1901, p. 110); he states that it has the face very narrow, being even narrower than in my figure of *H. atricornis*, in which character it agrees with the two British males I described, but he does not say if the front facets of the eyes are dilated in Zetterstedt's species.

Zetterstedt's *A. rotundicornis* is therefore more probably my *H. atricornis*, and his description bears this out, for though he says, "*Frons * * tota fulva*," a line before he says, "*Orbitæ angustæ, albæ*," and his remark, "*Epistoma * * nec infra oculos descendens; sub antennis angustissimum*," applies better to *H. atricornis* than to my second species.

Meade's *P. rotundicornis* was described from specimens in Dale's collection, and specimens sent by Dale to Verrall were the same as my *H. rotundicornis*, which stood in the Verrall collection under the name *H. atricornis*, Mg.

I cannot accept the name *filiformis*, Dsv., for my species, as one of Desvoidy's characters for his genus *Thelida* (type *filiformis*) was the narrowed face, and therefore his species was more probably *H. atricornis*. I very much doubt now if either of Macquart's species, *H. cinerella* and *H. scutellata*, belong to this genus at all, as probably one of them represents *Tephrochlamys rufiventris*, a species which he must have known, and at any rate his *H. cinerella*, described as "*Semblable à l'atricornis. Abdomen d'un noir un peu grisâtre; bord postérieur des segmens et anus fauves ♂ ♀*," can hardly be my *H. rotundicornis*. It appears to me therefore that a new name is necessary for the species which I have called *H. rotundicornis*, and which has